

# National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service National Coastal Data Development Center



**The National Requirement:** The Nation requires a better understanding of the health of our coastal environments and its relation to the national economy and environmental quality. The Earth's oceans and coastal environments are home to a wealth of natural resources, and the lives and livelihoods of people are linked to these national assets. Sustainable growth of our coastal areas supports commercial and recreational fishing, as well as the waterborne commerce, and is critical to our economy. Support for these efforts requires improved coastal ocean and atmospheric data and information and more timely dissemination of products derived from them

**NOAA's Response:** In FY 2000, NESDIS established the National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi to archive and provide access to the long-term coastal data record. The focus of the NCDDC is improving the quality of and access to marine atmospheric data, chemical data, biological data, and geological data sets and physical parameters such as water levels, bathymetry, winds, and waves to serve a wide variety of coastal users such as coastal resource managers, the research community, coastal weather forecasters, fisheries managers, and the public.

The NCDDC works closely with Federal, State, and local agencies, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and the private sector to create a unified, long-term database of coastal data sets. In accomplishing this mission, the NCDDC develops and maintains a catalog of available coastal data, ensures the quality of these data, populates and maintains databases, and provides on-line access to the coastal user community. Additionally, the NCDDC produces retrospective analyses and trend information to help form the basis for environmental predictions. The Center will also educate users about the value of this data in setting management policies, plans, and decisions.

**Financing:** The FY 2003 Budget request includes \$4.5 million for the National Coastal Data Development Center. The requested funding will support continued efforts to establish partnership activities with the NOAA Coastal Services Center, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the U.S. Navy. Funding will also support continued consolidation of multi-constituency coastal data services activities that began in FY 2000.